

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a packet switch, a switch request allocation plan is generated by reducing the number of queue requests VOQ relating to each of one or both sets of ports $I_1 \dots I_N$, $O_1 \dots O_N$, by a value such that the number of requests relating to each member of the set or sets of ports is no greater than the number of requests (frame value F) that can be handled by the switch (10). This reduction may be individually done for each queue. Alternatively all queues relating to a given port, or to any port, may have their length reduced by a single value determined by the size of the longest queue. A further stage may then apply other allocation rules to allocate requests remaining unallocated by the previous stage.